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REUTERS
20 March 1985

CIA PROPOSES CRIMINAL LAWS TO GUARD U.S. SECRETS
WASHINGTON

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD MAKE IT A CRIME FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO DISCLOSE NATIONAL SECRETS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION, THE WHITE HOUSE SAID TODAY.

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN LARRY SPEAKES SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS BEING REVIEWED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED WITHIN THE WHITE HOUSE.

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD NOT ASKED THE CIA TO DRAW UP THE PROPOSAL.

ASKED BY REPORTERS IF PRESIDENT REAGAN WOULD SUPPORT IT, HE REPLIED: "THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN."

THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED TODAY THAT IT HAD OBTAINED A COPY OF THE PROPOSAL. THE NEWSPAPER SAID IT WOULD AUTHORIZE PROSECUTION OF PRESENT OR FORMER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO DELIBERATELY LEAKED INFORMATION TO JOURNALISTS OR OTHERS OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY WOULD BE FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A $25,000 FINE, IT SAID.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS LONG BEEN IRRITATED BY UNAUTHORIZED LEAKS AND HAS CONSIDERED SEVERAL CONTROVERSIAL STEPS TO STOP THEM, INCLUDING SUBJECTING OFFICIALS TO LIE-DETECTOR TESTS.

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